



FOCUS ON: Walking with God

Rev. Wanda D. Craner, PSEC Minister of Spiritual Nurture



On a rainy weekend in mid-October, forty persons gathered together for the PSEC Spirituality event, "**Walking with God**," at the Kline Center, Mensch Mill. The event is sponsored each year by the PSEC Spiritual Life Mission Team. The weather was cold, wet and

windy outside, but inside, the Spirit moved mightily among the group.

Our keynote speakers, Fr. Peter Chepaitis and Sr. Anna Tantsits (from Bethany Ministries, New York) shared *Walking with God Through the Lens of the Beatitudes and The Lord's Prayer*. Peter and Anna said, "The beatitudes are the litmus test for Christians ... they are the 'headline' of the New Testament!" The speakers noted that the beatitudes are for us, as the commandments were for Jesus. A good number of us could not recall all eight beatitudes. *Can you?*

Through story, song, violin music, and animal puppets we were drawn into deeper reflection of the meaning and purpose of the beatitudes for our lives. We worshipped together on Saturday evening with songs and prayers that, I am sure, encouraged angel choirs to sing with us.

At the Sunday morning Eucharist we washed one another's hands/feet as one way of incarnating the Spirit of the beatitudes. We participated in workshops: gentle, prayerful yoga, dreams, contemplative art and movement, bible study, and Christian healing. There were opportunities to rest, to receive a massage from licensed therapists, and to share our spiritual journeys! God blessed us throughout the weekend. We left filled with gratitude and new conviction to live the beatitudes and looking forward to what the next "Walking with God" might bring!

DO YOU KNOW?

It's Time to Prepare Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent (November 29) marks the beginning of the Church's year. Advent and Christmas focus both on the past—the coming of Jesus as an infant born into poverty in Bethlehem, and the future—the coming of Christ in glory to fulfill God's loving purposes for humanity.



Visit www.ucc.org/advent/resources-2009.html for resources, downloads, candle lighting services and prayers to prepare your church and your family for the birth of new life.

New "Share with us" Feature on the Global Ministries Website



There is a "Share with us" icon on the homepage of the GM website -www.globalministries.org. If you click on the little yellow and green computer screens, you will go to a page that lists discussion groups. Global Ministries is interested in hearing how your congregation is engaging in God's global mission. Please take some time to share what your church is doing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit www.psec.org
Check Conference Calendar or Event Contacts for cancellation information

Tue., Nov. 24, 7 pm - Spirit on Tap at Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel, Reading, PA. Theme: *Nature's God: How the Religious and Philosophical Beliefs of the Founding Fathers Shaped America* with John Reinhart

Tue., Dec. 1, 9:30 am - 1 pm - Quiet Days at the Mensch House at Mensch Mill. No registration—bring a Bible, journal, pen & bag lunch.



PRAYER PARTNERS - Your prayers are welcomed today for Rev. Richard A. Leiby and the congregation of Rosedale UCC, Laureldale, as they provide key leadership for the ecumenical Muhlenberg Churches Food Pantry, which has grown from serving 4 households a month to 95.